

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 12614 211808Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 /061 W

----- 064232

P R 211627Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 872

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12614

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE CABINET CRISIS

REF: BEIRUT 12500

1. SAEB SALAM (OF ALL PEOPLE) TODAY ASSUMED DISTINCTION OF BEING FIRST PREMIER-DESIGNATE IN MODERN LEBANESE HISTORY TO ANNOUNCE TERMINATION OF HIS EFFORTS TO FORM A CABINET UNDER PRESIDENTIAL MANDATE. WE UNDERSTAND HE SUBMITTED--APPARENTLY WITH SOME OPTIMISM--YET ANOTHER LIST OF SUGGESTED MINISTERS TO PRES FRANGIE THIS MORNING, BUT THAT FRANGIE AGAIN REJECTED IT AS "UNACCEPTABLE". EVIDENTLY FEELING HE HAD REACHED DEADEND, SAEB BEY TOLD NEWSMEN UPON EMERGING FROM PRESIDENTIAL PALACE THAT HE HAD "APOLIGIZED" TO FRANGIE FOR NO LONGER BEING ABLE CONTINUE HIS EFFORT TO FORM CABINET.

2. COMMENT: SEEMS CLEAR THAT SALAM--FACED WITH CLEAR CHOICE BWTWEEN (A) RETURNING AS PRIMIN AT HEAD OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 12614 211808Z

"TRADITIONALIST" CABINET COMPOSED LARGELY OF POLITICAL

HACKS, AND (B) STICKING TO HIS NEW-FOUND ALLIANCE
WITH "OPPOSITIONIST" LEADERS KARAME AND EDDE--DECIDED
TO ADHERE TO "PRINCIPLE" RATHER THAN CAPITULATE TO
WHAT HE HAD COME TO REGARD AS PRESIDENTIAL "DIKTAT".
WHERE WE GO FROM HERE IS UNCERTAIN, BUT CABINET CRISIS
HAS ASSUMED LARGER PROPORTIONS AND IS LIKELY DRAG ON FAR LONGER
THAN ANTICIPATED WHEN SOLH GOVT RESIGNED ALMOST FOUR WEEKS AGO.
GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, CABINET
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT12614
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740299-0649
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741032/aaaabash.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BEIRUT 12500
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE CABINET CRISIS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, LE, (SALAM, SAEB)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005